



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Amida Care Applauds the Repeal of 50-a and Calls for New York City to Reduce Funding to the NYPD to Support Social Services**

(New York, NY) - Doug Wirth, President & CEO of [Amida Care](#), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), which is dedicated to breaking down health disparities and advocating for health equity for underserved communities, issued the following statement in response to the repeal of [New York Civil Rights Law section 50-a](#), which was used to shield police disciplinary records from public view:

“The current Black Lives Matter movement is about racial justice, and it’s also about breaking down systems of oppression. We applaud the New York State legislature for their repeal of 50-a, an unjust law that has barred the path to transparency in our state’s police departments. The repeal of 50-a will improve relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve. At this moment, our city, our state, and our country are having important conversations about the role law enforcement plays in our society and America’s unfortunate legacy of 400 years of racist, white supremacist, male-dominated, heterosexual bias. The same institutional racism that creates social, economic, and educational inequalities is what leads to health disparities and shortened life expectancy for people of color. Amida Care will continue to fiercely fight institutionalized racism.

The work is far from over. We urge New York City to shift funding away from the NYPD, and towards the Summer Youth Employment Program and other social services that will help to address inequities for communities of color. Budgets are moral documents. We cannot in good conscience continue to invest in systems and practices that marginalize Black and Latinx communities, while cutting programs that provide a much needed lifeline to under-resourced youth.

We are all writing history together, and we all share a responsibility to dismantle white supremacy and systems of oppression in all their forms. In the early days of the AIDS epidemic, “Silence=Death” became the central message used by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) in its campaign against the inaction of federal and state governments. Indeed, many of the tactical strategies used by HIV activists were learned from the Civil Rights Movement. As we celebrate the life and mourn the recent passing of ACT UP’s founder, playwright/activist Larry Kramer, we should emulate him, as well as

Martin Luther King, Jr. and other influential leaders who believed in confronting injustice and taking to the streets.

It's our responsibility—all of us—to find a way to be part of real change. Our collective silence and behaviors contribute to the systemic and institutional racism faced by people of color. We must take action in New York, and across America, to end this vicious cycle. We must stand in solidarity and fight back against the nation's racism and systemic violence. In order to achieve peace, we must first achieve justice."

### **About Amida Care**

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or who are homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit [www.amidacareny.org](http://www.amidacareny.org).